

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 02236 252311Z

64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 JUSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 AID-20 DRC-01 /115 W

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R 252238Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8344

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 2236

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, PINT, PINS

SUBJECT: PDC RADIO RETURNS TO AIR

REF: SANTIAGO 2106

1. SUMMARY. AFTER BEING CLOSED FOR SIX DAYS, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC (PDC) RADIO BALMACEDA RETURNED TO AIR APRIL 24, AND IMMEDIATELY REFUTED GOC REASONS FOR CLOSE-DOWN. COMMENTATORS AGAINST WHOM MEASURE DIRECTED REMAIN ON RADIO STAFF. STATION RUNS RISK OF COMPLETE SHUTDOWN WHICH WOULD FURTHER WORSEN PDC AND CATHOLIC CHURCH RELATIONS WITH JUNTA. END SUMMARY.

2. EVENING APRIL 24 AFTER PRECISELY SIX DAY SUSPENSION, PDC RADIO PRESIDENTE BALMACEDA RETURNED TO AIR. PROGRAM BEGAN WITH PRESS CHIEF IGNACIO GONZALEZ READING PREPARED TEXT (INCLUDING GOC ORDER CLOSING STATION), BEFORE INTRODUCING BALMACEDA GENERAL DIRECTOR BELISARIO VELASCO WHO SPOKE IN NAME OF RADIO'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

3. VELASCO SAID BOARD MET AND REVIEWED ALL COMMENTARIES DURING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 SANTIA 02236 252311Z

LAST TWO MONTHS AND CAME TO CONCLUSION THAT NONE COULD BE

CALLED "POLITICALLY PARTISAN IN CHARACTER NOR OF SECTARIAN SPIRIT." REASONS FOR CLOSURE CONSIDERED "INCOMPREHENSIBLE". VELASCO CLAIMED THAT BALMACEDA, "IN COMPARISON WITH OTHER RADIOS" (READ RIGHT-WING RADIO AGRICULTURA), "CHARACTERIZED BY SERIOUSNESS, EQUANIMITY, CIRCUMSPECTION AND SPIRIT OF NATIONAL UNITY...IN KEEPING WITH PATRIOTIC PURPOSES OF JUNTA... RADIO BALMACEDA, SINCE SEPT 11, HAS NEVER TOUCHED UPON THEMES OF PARTISAN POLITICS." ONLY COMMENTS OF POLITICAL NATURE ACCORDING VELASCO WERE "REBUTTALS OF ATTACKS FROM OTHER SECTORS AGAINST PDC OR ITS LEADERS...EVEN TODAY A SIMILAR ATTACK APPEARS IN AFTERNOON DAILY "LA SEGUNDA" WHICH IS REGRETTABLE." (REFERS TO ARTICLE BY VORMER "PATRIA Y LIBERTAD" LEADER PABLO RODRIGUEZ ATTACKING PDC).

4. VELASCO REVEALED THAT CHILEAN RADIO ASSOCIATION (ARCHI) SENT STATEMENT TO GOC OFFICE OF INFORMATION CRITICIZING CLOSURE IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS, DESCRIBING MEASURE AS "NOT IN KEEPING WITH PRESENT LAWS...WHICH DO NOT GIVE ADMINISTRATION RIGHT TO CLOSE RADIO STATION...CLOSURE INADMISSABLE AND CONTRARY TO INTENTION OF JUNTA..." VELASCO ADDED THAT DECISION COULD HAVE BEEN "AN ERROR...OR PERHAPS WE ARE WRONG...WE DO NOT ATTRIBUTE BAD FAITH...HOWEVER, WE HOPE THAT WE WILL NOT BE JUDGED FOR ALLEGED INTENTIONS...THUS, IN KEEPING WITH CHRISTIAN HUMANISM AND SPIRIT OF (PRESIDENT DIEGO) PORTALES, WHICH PRES. PINOCHET HIMSELF SAYS INSPIRES GOVERNMENT ACTIONS, WE CHERISH THE HOPE THAT IT WILL BE SO."

5. COMMENTARY ENDED WITH RE-ASSERTION OF CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES WHICH INSPIRE RADIO BALMACEDA. THIS FOLLOWED BY PLAYING OF POPULAR SONGS "TENGO FE" (I HAVE FAITH) AND EXTENSIVE EXCERPTS FROM BEETHOVEN'S NINTH SYMPHONY.

6. LATER IN EVENING, REV. LUIS ANTONIO DIAZ INTERVIEWED ON BISHOPS' MEETING (SEPTEL). DIAZ LIMITED REMARKS TO READING EXCERPTS FROM BISHOPS' DECLARATION EXPRESSING CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE. THURSDAY MORNING NEWSCAST REPEATED VELASCO COMMENTARY AND CARRIED LENGTHY EXCERPTS BISHOPS' STATEMENT.

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PAGE 03 SANTIAGO 02236 252311Z

7. COMMENT: BALMACEDA SOURCE TOLD IO THAT COMMENTATORS JAIME CASTILLO AND OTHERS WHO HAD INVOKED IRE OF ALVARO PUGA (SANTIAGO 2106) WOULD CONTINUE TO BROADCAST. FACT THAT ARCHI HAS TAKEN UP CASE OF INTEREST SINCE SAME ORGANIZATION OFTEN PROTESTED ILLEGAL MEASURES OF ALLENDE GOVT WITH REGARD TO RADIO CLOSURES. IF BALMACEDA CONTINUES AIR CASTILLO HARD-HITTING EDITORIALS, ESPECIALLY WITH REFERENCE TO HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE, ANOTHER CONFRONTATION WITH GOC ALMOST INEVITABLE. (NOTE:

CASTILLO ALSO DEFENSE ATTORNEY FOR SEVERAL DEFENDANTS AIR FORCE  
TRIALS.) AS NOTED REFTTEL, CHURCH ALSO INVOLVED AND IN VIEW  
STRONG DECLARATION ON PART OF BISHOPS, SCENE APPEARS TO BE  
SET FOR FURTHER PDC AND CATHOLIC CHURCH TENSION WITH JUNTA.  
POPPER

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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